

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077600
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15 OC-06
CPR-01 USSS-00 SY-05 NSCE-00 OPR-02 USIE-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ:RLW
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
NSC:MARMACOST (SUBS.)
S/S:DANDERSON

-----126839 250151Z /63

O 250119Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER) NZ

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. AS RESULT OF FORTHCOMING VOTE ON PANAMA CANAL TREATY,
VICE PRESIDENT MUST POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO THE PACIFIC.
2. REQUEST EMBASSY DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER MULDOON.
EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE MFA
OFFICIALS INFORMED OF POSTPONEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

THE US SENATE HAS DECIDED THAT THE VOTE ON THE PANAMA
CANAL TREATY WILL BE HELD DURING THE PERIOD OF APRIL 5
TO APRIL 26. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TREATY AND MY
RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE I MUST REMAIN
IN WASHINGTON UNTIL THIS VOTE TAKES PLACE. UNFORTUNATELY,
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THIS SITUATION WILL REQUIRE ME TO POSTPONE MY VISIT TO
NEW ZEALAND AS WELL AS TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC
AREA. I AM LOOKING FORWARD, HOWEVER, TO MAKING THE VISIT
SHORTLY AFTER THE VOTE ON THE TREATY AND HOPE TO PROPOSE
NEW DATES FOR AN EARLY VISIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS
ANTICIPATED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROPOSE SUCH DATES ON
OR ABOUT APRIL 5.

I VERY MUCH REGRET THE INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS WILL CAUSE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT. I AM MYSELF DISAPPOINTED THAT MY VISIT TO WELLINGTON AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU AGAIN, WHICH I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION, HAVE TO BE POSTPONED. I DO HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATES FOR AN EARLY VISIT CAN BE WORKED OUT VERY SOON. SINCERELY, WALTER F. MONDALE UNQUOTE

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM GNZ THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTPONEMENT WILL BE MADE IN WASHINGTON MORNING OF MARCH 25. VANCE

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Drafter: EHURWITZ:RLW
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